

SERMON: Trusting and Obeying Our Covenant God

March 17, 2019

SERIES: Genesis: A Journey of Faith

SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 17:1-27

SERMON OUTLINE:

I. You can trust God II. You must obey God III. You can obey God

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group. Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Once again we see that we can trust God. How does Genesis 17 demonstrate God's faithfulness to Abraham and Sarah? To us? (If time read and discuss Genesis 3:15 and the promised "seed," and Galatians 4:21-31 and the "seed of Sarah." How do these passages show God's faithfulness to us?)
 2. Read Genesis 17:7. God's greatest covenant blessing to us is a relationship with himself ("I will be your God" – see also Ex. 29:45; Jer. 31:33; 2 Cor. 6:16). Do you have a relationship with God? What does it mean to you, or, how would you describe it?
 3. Which of these do you connect with more: a) We must obey God because he is our king, b) we must obey God because he is our father? Why is remembering both of these truths so important?
 4. We get our identity from who/what we obey or serve. When it's hard to know what we are serving we can ask questions like these:
 - What gives me my Significance? Identity? Righteousness?
 - What drives me to despair?
 - What am I afraid of? Worried about?Can you identify how you would answer some of these questions? Why will any answer other than God himself fall short?
 5. God wants us to obey him because it is how we experience our restored humanity as worshippers. Read Romans 1:25. Can you recall a time in your life when you shifted your worship from the "creation" to the "Creator?" How did it make you feel more alive and free?
 6. We **MUST** obey God but we also **CAN** obey God. How? Through our union with Christ. Read and discuss these scriptures as a group: Romans 4:5; Colossians 2:11; 1 Peter 2:24; Galatians 2:20; Romans 12:1-2. How does being in Christ and Christ in us empower us to obey God?
- Pray: Praise God for his covenant faithfulness in our lives, especially for sending us a Savior. Confess ways that you serve the creation over the Creator. Ask God help you trust your union with Christ and obey God by faith.